IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: SUZUKI, et al

Filed:

on even date herewith

For:

Connection Support Method For Disk Array Device

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 4, 2004

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 AND 37 CFR § 1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-419087 filed December 17, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

Carl I. Brundidge

Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jla